

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

Claim 1. (Previously amended) A method for improving the cardiovascular function of a subject having reduced cardiovascular function consisting of the ~~chronic~~ administration of two to eight grams of D-ribose one to four times daily to the subject for a period of at least three weeks.

Claim 2. (Previously amended) ~~The~~ A method for improving the cardiovascular function of a subject having reduced cardiovascular function according to claim 1 further comprising the administration of two to eight grams of D-ribose plus addition of an effective amount of a vasodilator one to four times daily to the subject for a period of at least three weeks.

Claim 3. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the vasodilator is L-arginine, nitroglycerin, a nitrate, a nitrite, papaverine, isoproterenol, nylidrin, isoxsuprine, nitroprusside, adenosine, xanthine, ethyl alcohol, dipyramide, hydrazaline, minoxidil or diazoxide.

Claim 4. (Canceled)

Claim 5. (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Canceled)

Claims 7-17 (Canceled)